

AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 116-

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OFFERED BY MRS. WAGNER OF MISSOURI

Page 845, after line 7, insert the following:

1 **SEC. 1260. SOUTHEAST ASIA STRATEGY.**

2 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

3 (1) Southeast Asia is the fulcrum of the Indo-
4 Pacific region, providing both a geographic and mar-
5 itime link between East and South Asia.

6 (2) The Association of Southeast Asian Nations
7 (ASEAN), a regional intergovernmental organiza-
8 tion, remains central to the Indo-Pacific region’s in-
9 stitutional architecture and to United States foreign
10 policy toward the region.

11 (3) The United States has reaffirmed that the
12 security and sovereignty of its Southeast Asian allies
13 and partners, including a strong, independent
14 ASEAN, remain vital to the security, prosperity, and
15 stability of the Indo-Pacific region.

16 (4) The United States has committed to con-
17 tinuing to deepen longstanding alliances and part-
18 nerships with a range of Southeast Asian nations,

1 including by promoting our shared values, democ-
2 racy, human rights, and civil society.

3 (5) Since the end of the Second World War,
4 United States investments in strengthening alliances
5 and partnerships with Southeast Asian nations have
6 yielded tremendous returns for United States inter-
7 ests, as working with and through these alliances
8 and partnerships have increased the region's capac-
9 ity and capability to address common challenges.

10 (6) ASEAN member states are critical United
11 States security partners in preventing violent extre-
12 mism and protecting the freedom and openness of
13 the maritime domain and in preventing the traf-
14 ficking of weapons of mass destruction.

15 (7) ASEAN member states have contributed
16 significantly to regional disaster monitoring and
17 management and emergency response through initia-
18 tives such as the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for
19 Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management,
20 an inter-governmental organization that facilitates
21 coordination and cooperation among ASEAN mem-
22 ber states and international organizations in times
23 of emergency.

24 (8) According to the 2018 ASEAN Business
25 Outlook Survey, ASEAN member states are vital to

1 the prosperity of the United States economy and ex-
2 ports to ASEAN economies support more than
3 500,000 jobs in the United States.

4 (9) The United States and ASEAN have re-
5 cently celebrated the 40th anniversary of their ties
6 and established a new strategic partnership that will
7 enhance cooperation across the economic, political-
8 security, and people-to-people pillars of the relation-
9 ship.

10 (b) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—It is the policy of the
11 United States to—

12 (1) deepen cooperation with ASEAN and
13 ASEAN member states in the interest of promoting
14 peace, security, and stability in the Indo-Pacific re-
15 gion;

16 (2) affirm the importance of ASEAN centrality
17 and ASEAN-led mechanisms in the evolving institu-
18 tional architecture of the Indo-Pacific region; and

19 (3) establish and communicate a comprehensive
20 strategy toward the Indo-Pacific region that articu-
21 lates—

22 (A) the role and importance of Southeast
23 Asia to the United States;

24 (B) the value of the United States-ASEAN
25 relationship;

1 (C) the mutual interests of all parties;

2 (D) the concrete and material benefits all
3 nations derive from strong United States en-
4 gagement and leadership in Southeast Asia; and

5 (E) efforts to forge and maintain ASEAN
6 consensus, especially on key issues of political
7 and security concern to the region, such as the
8 South China Sea.

9 (c) STRATEGY FOR ENGAGEMENT WITH SOUTHEAST
10 ASIA AND ASEAN.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
12 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
13 retary of State, in consultation with the heads of
14 other Federal departments and agencies as appro-
15 priate, shall develop and submit to the appropriate
16 congressional committees a comprehensive strategy
17 for engagement with Southeast Asia and ASEAN.

18 (2) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The strategy
19 required by paragraph (1) shall include the fol-
20 lowing:

21 (A) A statement of enduring United States
22 interests in Southeast Asia and a description of
23 efforts to bolster the effectiveness of ASEAN.

24 (B) A description of efforts to—

1 (i) deepen and expand Southeast
2 Asian alliances, partnerships, and multilat-
3 eral engagements, including efforts to ex-
4 pand broad based and inclusive economic
5 growth, security ties, security cooperation
6 and interoperability, economic connectivity,
7 and expand opportunities for ASEAN to
8 work with other like-minded partners in
9 the region; and

10 (ii) encourage like-minded partners
11 outside of the Indo-Pacific region to en-
12 gage with ASEAN.

13 (C) A summary of initiatives across the
14 whole of the United States Government to
15 strengthen the United States partnership with
16 Southeast Asian nations and ASEAN, including
17 to promote broad based and inclusive economic
18 growth, trade, investment, energy and efforts to
19 combat climate change, public-private partner-
20 ships, physical and digital infrastructure devel-
21 opment, education, disaster management, public
22 health and economic and political diplomacy in
23 Southeast Asia.

24 (D) A summary of initiatives across the
25 whole of the United States Government to en-

1 hance the capacity of Southeast Asian nations
2 with respect to enforcing international law and
3 multilateral sanctions, and initiatives to cooper-
4 ate with ASEAN as an institution in these
5 areas.

6 (E) A summary of initiatives across the
7 whole of the United States Government to pro-
8 mote human rights and democracy, to strength-
9 en the rule of law, civil society, and transparent
10 governance, and to protect the integrity of elec-
11 tions from outside influence.

12 (F) A summary of initiatives to promote
13 security cooperation and security assistance
14 within Southeast Asian nations, including—

15 (i) maritime security and maritime
16 domain awareness initiatives for protecting
17 the maritime commons and supporting
18 international law and freedom of naviga-
19 tion in the South China Sea; and

20 (ii) efforts to combat terrorism,
21 human trafficking, piracy, and illegal fish-
22 ing, and promote more open, reliable
23 routes for sea lines of communication.

1 (3) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
2 TEES DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term “ap-
3 propriate congressional committees” means—

4 (A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and
5 the Committee on Armed Services of the House
6 of Representatives; and

7 (B) the Committee on Foreign Relations
8 and the Committee on Armed Services of the
9 Senate.

